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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 42

MAY 15, 1946

WHEAT

Indicated production of winter wheat, as of May 1, was 743 million bushels, off about 11 percent from April forecast and compares with 823 million last year and 618 million the 10-year average (1935-44). Acreage remaining for harvest 45.9 million acres, about 2 percent under last year. Acreage not harvested for grain expected to be 11.9 percent of planted acreage, compared with 6.9 percent last year and 12.2 percent average. May 1 yield indications 16.2 bushels per acre, 1.4 bushels under last year but about average.

Total U. S. stocks of wheat reported April 1 amounted to 338.6 million bushels. These stocks included approximately 204 million bushels on farms, 7 million held by CCC, 37 million in interior mills and elevators, 34 million in terminals and 56 million bushels in merchant mills. Total April 1 wheat stocks were nearly down to the July 1 level of 1944 and 1945 and well below the July 1 level of 1943, 1942 and 1941.

FATS AND OILS ALLOCATIONS

The total allocable supply of edible fats and oils for second quarter of 1946 estimated at 1,255 million pounds, compared with similar supplies of 1,410 million in the first quarter. The chief items as allocated are to civilians 997 million pounds, military 12.5 million, commercial exports 87 million, exports implemented by Government 158 million pounds. Of the last item, about 61 million pounds is allocated to UNRRA, 47.6 million to France, 15.8 million to United Kingdom, 10.7 million to Belgium, besides other small items.

Total allocable supply of inedible fats and oils for second quarter 861.8 million pounds compared with 813.6 in first quarter. The chief allocations of inedible fats are: civilians 828 million pounds, military 10.4, commercial exports 18.2 million, exports implemented by Government 5 million, the latter going all to UNRRA.

MARGARINE

Cottonseed and soybean oils accounted for 92 percent of all fats and oils used in margarine last year. Of cottonseed oil, 254 million pounds were so used, this representing 51 percent of all oils and fats used in margarine. Of soybean oil, 207 million pounds were used, representing 41 percent of all fats in margarine. The remaining 8 percent used in margarine consisted of peanut, oleo, and corn oil, neutral lard etc. Quantities of

edible oils used in margarine were determined largely by allocation under War Food Order No. 29. Total production of margarine for 1945 was approximately 614 million pounds, compared with 584 million in 1944. Margarine production will be smaller this year than last. Exports in 1945 were mainly for British armed forces.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Hens laid 6.7 billion eggs in April, 1 percent above April last year and 23 percent above 1935-44 average. Number of layers same as year ago but more eggs per hen. Egg output January-April totaled 22.6 billion eggs, 2 percent above like period last year and 35 percent above average but 5 percent under same period in 1944. Layers averaged 17.9 eggs per hen during April, a record high. Farm flocks averaged 376 layers in April, about like last year but 17 percent above 10-year average for the month. Number of chickens and young chickens of this year's hatching on farms May 1 were 459 million, about like year ago but 21 percent above average.

Egg prices to farmers in mid-April averaged 31.3 cents per dozen, compared with 33 cents year ago and 20.9 cents for 10-year average. Chicken prices averaged 24.3 cents per pound, live weight, in mid-April, compared with 25.7 cents year ago and 17.4 cents a pound average.

Mid-April average cost of feed for poultry ration was \$3.11 per hundred pounds, highest price in 23 years of record, and compared with \$3.07 a month earlier, \$2.84 year earlier and \$2.05 10-year average.

Number of chicks hatched during April 340 million, compared with 339 million last year. Chick output in first four months this year 764 million, compared with 775 million during like period last year, a decrease of

1 percent. Sharp reduction in chicks during May indicated; number of eggs in incubators May 1 was 26 percent less than year ago. Number of chicks booked May 1 for later delivery 63 percent lower this year than last.

Hatcheries reported 2 percent more turkey poults hatched during this April than last. However, number of poults booked on May 1 was 31 percent less than year ago. Turkey growers reported reducing their 1946 turkey crop 15 percent below last year, due to tight feed situation. They expect to raise only about 38 million turkeys this year, compared with nearly 45 million raised in the record crop last year.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	MAR. 15 1946	APR. 15 1946	APR. 15 1946
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.58	1.58	1.60
Corn, bu. dol.	1.14	1.16	1.16
Peanuts, lb. ct.	8.63	8.69	8.69
Cotton, lb. ct.	22.70	23.59	22.44
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.57	1.62	1.32
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.20	14.20	13.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.10	13.70	9.81
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	14.10	14.30	12.20
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.60	14.00	10.60
Butterfat, lb. ct.	51.2	51.1	47.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.29	3.23	2.72
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.3	24.3	20.6
Eggs, doz. ct.	32.1	31.3	32.7

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

DAIRY

Milk production for April estimated 10.5 billion pounds, compared with 10.7 billion last year and 9.4 billion April average 1935-44. Milk production for the four months January-April 37.2 billion pounds, compared with 38 billion last year and 33.8 billion average. Number of milk cows about 1 million fewer than year ago. Average output per cow 17.52 pounds on May 1, largest on record for the date, and compares with 16.86 pounds per cow year ago and 15.47 pounds for the May 1 average 1935 - 44.

MEAT OUTPUT

Meat production in the United States during 1945 estimated 22.9 billion pounds (dressed weight), 7 percent under record total of 24.7 billion in 1944. Beef production was up 11 percent, veal 2 percent, lamb and mutton 3 percent but pork was down 22 percent, as compared with 1944. Total dressed weight of beef produced in 1945 was 10.1 billion pounds, compared with 9.1 billion in 1944. Total veal 1.63 billion pounds, compared with 1.59 billion. Total lamb and mutton 1.053 billion, compared with 1.023 billion. Total pork 10 billion pounds in 1945, compared with 12.9 billion pounds in 1944. Average dressed weight per head, 1945 compared with 1944, beef 475 pounds compared with 455, veal 121 pounds compared with 117, lamb and mutton 43 pounds compared with 40, pork (excluding lard) 147 pounds compared with 133 pounds.

Cold storage stocks of beef May 1 were 141 million pounds, compared with 190 million year ago and 153 million May 1 average 1941-45. Total pork in storage May 1 was 378 million pounds, compared with 294 million year ago and 594 average. Lard and rendered pork fat 70 million pounds, compared with 54 million year ago. Total of all meats in storage 622 million pounds, including Government holdings; a year ago the item of all meats in storage stood at 567 million pounds and the May 5-year average was 845 million, but these two latter figures of totals are not strictly comparable with the current figure.

Exports of beef and veal in March 94 million pounds, compared with exports of 979,000 pounds in March 1945. Exports of pork 21 million pounds, compared with 81 million year previous. Lard exports 42 million pounds this March compared with 101 million year previous. Lamb and mutton 4.4 million pounds, compared with 714,000 last year.

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS

Prospective tonnage of 1946 spring commercial truck crops 2,183,000 tons, based on conditions May 1. This

would be 17 percent above record last spring and 46 percent above 10-year average 1935-44. Acreage this spring 14 percent greater than 1945 and 22 percent above average. Spring tomato crop prospect 12,688,000 bushels, 19 percent above last spring's crop and 84 percent above average. Spring cantaloupes (California and Florida) forecast 3,057,000 crates, 33 percent above last spring. Spring celery 4,125,000 half-crates, 17 percent over last spring. Early spring onions (South Texas) 4,956,000 sacks of 50 pounds. Late spring onions forecast 3,723,000 sacks, 70 percent over last year.

FARM LABOR

Total number of farm workers May 1 was 10,366,000, an increase of 350,000 or about 3 percent over last year. Number of family workers 8,391,000 compared with 8,153,000 year ago, increase of 3 percent. Number of hired workers 1,975,000, which was 6 percent more than year ago. Chief increases in hired help were 20 percent in West North central States and 14 percent on Pacific Coast; South Atlantic had fewer hired hands this May. Seasonal increase this year in total number of farm workers amounted to 1,250,000 persons April 1 to May 1. This increase was about 250,000 more than in same month last year or two years ago and is accounted for by early working season as well as more hands available.

FARM INCOME

Total cash receipts to farmers from products sold during February, 1,461 million dollars, compared with 1,399 million dollars in February 1945. Figures included 72 million dollars of Government payments this February, compared with 48 million last year. Total income January-February this year 3,150 million dollars, compared with 3,057 million in January-February 1945. Totals include 186 million dollars Government payments this year and 135 million Government payments last year.

MARKETING MARGINS

Charges for marketing a family basket of farm food products amounted to \$226 in February, compared with \$227 in January and \$226 in February 1945. Marketing charges averaged \$226 in 1944, \$227 in 1943 and \$201 during the five pre-war years 1935-39.

Retail cost of the market basket was \$464 in February, compared with \$468 in January. The February retail figure was up \$12 or about 3 percent above February 1945.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	APRIL 1946
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	212
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	181
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	171
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	188
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	1361
RATIOS	LONG-TIME APRIL-AVERAGE	APRIL 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.3	12.2
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	23.8	27.9
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.18	1.36
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	10.2	10.1
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-MAR. 1945	JAN.-MAR. 1946
Milk, (Bill. lb.)	27.3	26.7
Eggs, (Bill.)	15.5	15.9
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	1,841	1,536
Lamb & mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	238	257
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	2,247	2,562
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	4,482	4,472

¹Factory pay roll per employed worker. Feb. figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.